

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to news@sarl.org.za not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English. Please note as from February 2003, only news items sent to news@sarl.org.za will be accepted.

In the news today:

HIGH SPEED MULTIMEDIA HAMMING COULD BE THE NEXT BIG THING

SPECIAL EVENT, TO MARK MARCONI 1903 TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL

COMPETITIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO PARTAKE IN

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 0(zero)11 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

HIGH SPEED MULTIMEDIA HAMMING COULD BE THE NEXT BIG THING

This item was condensed from the ARRL news.

John Champa, K8OCL, who chairs the ARRL High Speed Multimedia (HSMM) Working Group, said that high-speed multimedia hamming via the "Hinternet", derived from Ham and Internet, could be the next big thing for Amateur Radio. That's the hope of the HSMM Working Group, which is adapting the highly popular IEEE 802.11b Part 15 wireless Internet protocol to Part 97 amateur operating.

Champa's team is calling the specific techniques, software and hardware involved "the ARRL 802.11b protocol" to distinguish it from the unlicensed, commercial protocol. Systems employ direct-sequence spread spectrum techniques and operate in the 2,4 GHz range. The term "Hinternet" (ham + Internet),

Champa says, is a user-friendly way to refer to the development of high-speed Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs) capable of simultaneously carrying audio, video and data signals.

Champa predicted that the development of the ARRL 802.11b protocol will significantly enhance Amateur Radio, especially with respect to emergency communication and support of public service activities. He and his HSMM Working Group colleagues also expect that it will attract many technically oriented users of the Internet and wireless LANs to get their amateur tickets.

Working Group member Kris Mraz, N5KM, said that an emergency volunteer equipped with a laptop or a wireless PDA (personal digital assistant) with a microphone and a small video camera will have the tools to be a mobile set of eyes and ears in the midst of a communications emergency.

Although other amateur allocations also would be appropriate for Hinternet operation, the use of 2.4 GHz was an easy choice, since Part 15 WiFi (wireless fidelity) devices already operate in that part of the spectrum, and inexpensive commercial equipment is widely available. Acting on an ARRL petition, the FCC has proposed elevating amateurs to primary at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

The ARRL publications catalog now includes the book 802.11 Wireless Networks: The Definitive Guide by Matthew S. Gast. The book covers the topics of creating and administering wireless networks.

Champa says that taken in a nationwide context, the meaning of the term Hinternet goes deeper than just an amalgamation of words. "In nautical terms the word hinterland is 'the land beyond the coast,'" he said. "And so it is with us. 'The Hinternet' is the radio net beyond the Internet."

SPECIAL EVENT, TO MARK MARCONI 1903 TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL

The special event station KM1CC to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US and Great Britain January 18, 1903 (January 19 UTC) will still be on the air till tomorrow. If you have not yet contacted that station, do so as soon as possible otherwise you will have to wait a hundred years for the second centennial commemoration!

COMPETITIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO PARTAKE IN PEARS NATIONAL VHF UHF CONTEST

This is a final reminder that the PEARs VHF/UHF contest will take place next weekend starting at 18:00 SAST on Friday the 24th and ending at 18:00 on Sunday the 26th,

The contest covers five categories: 4 analogue and 1 digital. It provides something for everyone, so have a good amateur radio fun time.

All amateurs are welcome to participate in the contest.

SARL PRESIDENT'S NET

Remember to join the Presidents Net which will be on the air for the first time this year at 12:00 on Sunday the 26th January on 7082 kHz.

AUSTRALIA DAY

Australian radio amateurs will be able to celebrate their country's national day for 48 hours this year with the use of the alternative prefix of Alpha Xray replacing the normal Victor Kilo.

The mainland of Australia has four different time zones - and mix of standard and summer time. VK's can substitute the AX prefix from 00:01 their local time on Sunday 26 January through to 23:59 on Monday 27 January.

This year, because Australia Day 26 January falls on a weekend, there is also an official public holiday on Monday 27 January.

WIA Victoria will be activating AX3WI on the two days using SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and CW, mainly in the 20, 15 and 10 metre bands.

A special event QSL card will be issued.

SARL HF FIELD DAY

The first leg of the SARL HF Field Day will take place over the weekend of 08 and 09 February 2003. The rules have been changed with regard to setting up the field station and power multipliers and bonus points have been added to the scoring. The rules are in the new contest manual that should be available on the SARL website within the coming week if it is not there already.

SARL KID'S DAY ACTIVITY

The SARL Kids Day, also takes place on Saturday 8 February. Please take note of the new date.

Amateurs who plan to participate in the Kids Day event are requested to register their stations as an educational station as soon as possible. Visit the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za and complete the form. The activity starts at 09:00 and ends at 11:00 CAT with activity on 20 and 40-metres and 2-meter repeater frequencies. Either set up a station at a local school or a local shopping mall or from your home and get the young people to enjoy amateur radio.

2003 ARRL HANDBOOK

The 2003 ARRL Handbook is available from the SARL Bookshop. If you did not get a copy for Christmas do not despair, contact Debbie at 011 675 2393 and get yourself a copy. Amateurs in the ZS3/ZS4 area can contact Dennis ZS4BS; he has three copies with him.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR SARLNEWS

The address for sarlnews at the Hotmail site, will be relinquished at the end of this month. With immediate effect news contributions may be sent to

ws@sarl.org.za mews@sarl.org.za. As from next month this will be the only address to be used for contributions.

This bulletin was compiled by George, ZS6NE and read byfrom as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz.

ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

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